

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2014

Members in Attendance: Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample, Rachel Buonopane, Susan James, Kerrie Fallon, Michael Rademacher

Members Absent: John Thompson, Maureen St. Hilaire, Burt Pusch (to be inducted this coming month)

Others Present: Jack Jones/ADA Coordinator, Janice Dallas, Ted Fields (Economic Development Planner)

Meeting began at 4:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2/19/14

3. Guest, Ted Fields, Economic Development Coordinator, Town of Arlington

- Discussion of Town's storefront enhancement project
- Grants to town (community block grant) of \$15,000, can be used to assist owners up to \$5,000 for improvement projects (if they pledge to match their spending on the project)
- Cambridge has a similar program offering \$15,000 per project and establishments are required to make entryway's accessible. This may be a possibility for Arlington in the future as the program grows.
- Leader Bank is also offering low interest rates on financing these upgrades
- The primary goal of the project is to protect the town's commercial properties from redevelopment into other uses
- Want to help the business thrive into the future
- Commitments to 3 properties have been made this year to upgrade facades
 1. 167-173 Mass Ave- Olympic Pizza to Tiki House, structural issues noted. These facilities do not have a step to enter
 2. 152-154 Mass Ave- barber shop, Francesca's Deli, unifying the façade.
 3. 1332 Mass Ave (Heights)- Corner of Mass Ave and Park Ave, Picture framing store. Will be repainting and restoring the damaged exterior.
- Discussion of how property owners can get tax incentives for increasing accessibility
- Discussion of how we as a commission and town can better communicate with business owners to educate them on accessibility and incentives
- Ted reports that we could get involved with local Chamber of Commerce chapters: Capitol Square merchants association, Arlington Heights, Arlington Center

- Ted open to be a resource to Commission on Disability, to better communicate with business community. Open to speaking with commission and providing input to and from Town businesses.
- Commission members are welcome to attend business development meetings
- Arlington Center Parking Study
- Discussion of suggestion for more accessible spots to be added to the Russell Common Lot
- Some members expressed concern with this suggestion, as those spots would involve greater distance to travel to stores, restaurants and offices: making it harder for people with disabilities to access these services
- Outdoor Dining
- Reviewed with Ted the Commission's recommendation for outdoor seating
- Suggest that the seating be closest to the curbside, allowing path of travel between outdoor seating and the facility
- *Molly to type up the Commission's recommendations for outdoor seating*

4. Strategic Planning

5. Project Updates (listed together below)

- **Commission Projects**
- Curb cut program- Jack, John and Mike ready to start making selections for FY 15 with chosen deadline in this meeting of 6/30/14
- Commission members and community members can send concerning curb cut locations to John, stating the need and issues of the location.
- John and Mike will verify suggestions and will develop the list for FY 15
- Again will look to focus first in commercial areas, municipal locations and apartment complexes
- FY 14 2 part plan: 1. Curb cuts expected to get done, 2. Curb cuts to be done if there is money remaining
- Mike reminds group that curb cuts that are not on the plan but were suggested, were taken off of the project because they are included in existing road work projects in the next 1-2 years and will be funded through those projects
- snow removal- noted at this meeting that the fire dept does go around town to assure that fire hydrants are cleared. Community members should be working on this as well.
- Plan for September/October to go out and educate community on snow removal responsibilities
- Suggestion of subcommittee to also include police, MBTA and Chamber of Commerce
- Concern of snow being plowed into accessible parking spaces in public and private lots, to be included in education
- Heidi to chair the committee

- Business accessibility in town
- Will work to collaborate with stake holders and get them more involved in this process
- Plan to attend business meeting in town, increase our visibility
- List business that are accessible on our Website
- Discussed ways of giving our official approval to locations that are accessible
- Positive feedback- promotion of businesses that are accessible, develop a list, a flyer, a small book...
- Plan to follow up with Ted to see how we could reach out to businesses to give us the information of if they have an accessible entrance, accessible public restroom, etc
- Community relations
- Build a mailing list
- How can we better communicate with the community
- Email
- Make a facebook page- what would be included?
- Postal mail
- Update the website- discussion of agenda and minutes being posted promptly
- Annual newsletter, town day
- Community ADA training provided recently: Molly Jack and Rachel attended
- Regional Commission meeting- Betsy Allen (Somerville), suggestion of working with other Commissions to offer support, ideas and assistance to one another
- Work on planning community day at Museum of Science
- Accessible parking space proposal in Arlington Heights Business District: Rachel wrote up letter with map and Jack submitted to Board of Selectmen, to be reviewed that month at Selectmen meeting
- Susan suggested bringing a True Theatre performance to Arlington, to perform a piece on living with disabilities. To be added to Commission Project list. Susan has contacted them, discussion about finding co-sponsors.
- ***Commission members to work to prioritize our list of projects and realistically determine what can be done this year***

6. ADA Coordinator's Report

- Report distributed and reviewed
- Kelliher center will no longer be relocating program. Will maintain location that is accessible. Marie Bell, community member reporting concern, was informed and pleased with update per report
- Maureen, Molly and Jack attended the ARC of Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council Annual Legislative Reception
- Inquiry of Cambridge updating their transition plan, they are not updating, though per report they have maintained a fluid plan and have updated regularly
- Info regarding conversion of Summit House apartments to condos- State law states that elderly/disabled residents given written notice have two years to move from apartment. The Town may also provide financial or other assistance to disabled tenants.
- Review of unauthorized parking in accessible spaces that were ticketed in 2013. 41 tickets were issued totaling \$8,200. Question asked, if the RMV was notified of these

violations. Further discussion of Commission accessing these \$\$'s for use towards disability projects in town.

- Jack reached out to Greg Ames from Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission regarding annual career fair. Greg would like to hold fair in May or June. Will follow up with Jack in April.
- Vinnie Kilcommons, Arlington Junior Engineer has requested the 50 curb cut list for FY15

7. New Business and Announcements

- Open meeting law requirements discussed- will be posting handouts issue during meetings
- Discussion of transportation assistance to attend meetings, provide information to community on how to get to meeting
- Nina Fischer looking for volunteers and money to support the I Can Shine project
- Rachel has contacted Jeff Lafata of EPIC and Triangle to come speak to the commission next month regarding accessible icon project. Jeff will attend and provide commission with more information on this project regarding changing the symbol painted on the street, parking lots spaces.
- **Other:** Mike reports potential project stemming from Transition Plan
- Discussion of consulting an outside company to perform sidewalk status inventory, assessing for compliance
- Asking whether it would be cost effective or not to include curb cuts, which would double the cost of project, as they are officially inspected and measured for ADA compliance
- The project will provide information about how big our accessibility issues are in town, and will also track the amount of work that has been done to improve these issues
- Mike asking for our feedback, no official vote is needed
- Group did voice opinion that it would be worthwhile to include the curb cuts in this project

Handouts Issued to Commission Members during Meeting

Meeting notes of 2/19/14

Today's meeting agenda

Commission Project Guidelines

ADA coordinator's report

Copy of Rachel's letter to Board of Selectmen regarding Arl Heights Accessible parking space

List of FY 14 curb cut ramp

Public Body Checklist for Creating and Approving Meeting Minutes

The Communicator- Publication of Autism National Committee

Meeting adjourned 6:05 pm

Next Meeting set April 16, 2014